MAR 1 3 2002 E

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Smith et al.

Group Art Unit: 1634

Application Serial No. 09/761,579

Examiner: Juliet C. Einsmann

Filed: January 18, 2001

Title: METHODS

ELECTION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 EBECTION



Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 13, 2002, Applicants elect without traverse Group I, Claims 1-3.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Robert W. Hahl

Registration No. 33,893

1600 Tysons Boulevard McLean, Virginia 22102 (703) 905-2000 (703) 905-2500 Facsimile

Date: March 13, 2002

Attorney Reference: 009901/0276521